

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the American people continue to reject the notion that when it comes to health care, government knows best. Except this Congress and this Speaker of the House reject that. They say government can do whatever it darn well pleases. So we are presented with a 1,990-page bill that redefines health care and one-sixth of our economy.

Hundreds of millions of Americans will be forced out of their current plans. Medicare cuts will mean fewer benefits to seniors. Bureaucrats will restrict health care services. Taxpayers will fund abortion. Illegal immigrants will receive taxpayer-funded benefits. Federal and State taxes will go up as a result, and furthermore, the cost to health care will continue to rise.

There is a better way, a different plan than the Pelosi health care bill. That is what I will support. It will control the cost of health care by capping medical malpractice lawsuits and help individuals get the type of health care that they truly deserve.

IN SUPPORT OF THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Affordable Health Care for America Act. This bill represents tireless negotiation, compromise, and input from Americans all across the country. We have been trying to reform our health care system since Harry Truman's Presidency, so this bill by no means represents brand new ideas; rather, it has been a work in progress for decades.

Attempts to reform our health care system in the past have failed because of false claims that this is socialized medicine. And, of course, these are the same arguments that the bill's opponents are making today. But it won't work this time because the American people are tired of unaffordable premiums, of unfairly losing coverage, and the fine print that prevents them from getting the care they need. It gives the power back to the patient by creating a more transparent, more competitive health insurance market.

In a country as wealthy as ours, no one should have to face losing their life or seriously compromising their health because they cannot access, cannot afford, or have been denied health care coverage.

REFORMING HEALTH CARE IN AN UNDERSTANDABLE WAY

(Mrs. EMERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, before we debate the 1,990-page health care bill that my colleagues and I are all trying to read this week, let me share

with you how this bill defines a check-up, known in this legislation as a "primary care service." I will quote from page 1,056.

"The term 'primary care services' means evaluation and management services, without regard to the specialty of the physician furnishing the services, that are procedure codes (for services covered under title XVIII) for services in the category designated Evaluation and Management in the Health Care Common Procedure Coding System (established by the Secretary under section 1848(c)(5) as of December 31, 2009, and as subsequently modified by the Secretary)."

Now, that is a checkup. And all that section of the bill really says is we are going to define it in the future.

If I have time, Mr. Speaker, I try to read every bill, and as this legislation goes, it is pretty darn complicated. But what we need to accomplish is very simple: We need to lower the costs of health care in order to improve access to the system. It doesn't take 1,990 pages. We could do it in 19 pages. And we ought to do it in terms that the American public can understand.

DEMAND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ABORTION BE BANNED IN ANY HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the administration and congressional Democrats are currently wheeling and dealing behind closed doors attempting a government takeover of our Nation's health care system. Additionally, the Democrat scheme provides a back door to allow for the government funding of abortion.

Since 1976, Federal funds have been barred from being used for abortions, and Democrats are refusing to continue this policy. Some of my colleagues will tell you their plan doesn't fund abortion, yet, on page 171, section 303 states that at least one plan participating through the new government-run exchange must cover abortion services. In addition, the bill contains explicit language saying "nothing in this act shall be construed as preventing" the public option from paying for all elective abortions.

The public option will be a Federal program using Federal funds. The American taxpayers will be forced to send part of their hard-earned dollars to Washington every year to end the life of an unborn child.

I call on my colleagues in this House to demand that Federal funding for abortion is banned in any and all forms of health care funding.

STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THE RIGHT WAY

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, isn't it ironic that as many Americans are celebrating the freedom to choose by casting votes across America on this election day, the House will begin consideration of a bill that threatens the freedom to choose their own health care plans.

The Pelosi bill will allow government takeover, raises taxes on hardworking Americans and small businesses, and get this, takes away half a trillion dollars worth of health care from our seniors. It includes a tax on wheelchairs, hearing aids, and pacemakers.

This is not the right solution to improve our health care system. What we need is real improvement, and that is let's lower the costs; real medical malpractice reform; lower the risk pools by allowing small businesses to band together; allow people to purchase insurance across State lines; allow States to create high-risk pools that lower the cost and provide coverage for uninsured and underinsured.

We must work together to get this done for the good of Americans across this country.

HEALTH CARE AND THE ECONOMY

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, when we come to real health reform, we need to take cost out, not add it, as this monstrosity of a bill does. There is consensus in the House for real reform that would reengineer the Center for Medicare Services to bring it into this century, provide real private market reform, and end junk lawsuits once and for all against our doctors.

But Speaker PELOSI permits none of this, squelching over 45 real health care reform bills that have been introduced. Instead, the Pelosi bill is based on a job-killing \$800 billion tax on small businesses that the Obama administration says will cost 5 million jobs, cuts senior benefits by half a trillion dollars doing so-called reform on the backs of seniors, and creates 111 new government agencies. That is not reform.

Let's stop this bill, go back to square one, and give the American people what they are demanding, which is the protection of their health freedom and real reform today.

TAKING AWAY FREEDOM TO CHOOSE YOUR HEALTH CARE PLAN

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, freedom to choose your own health care plan is what is at stake here. The drumbeat for entitlement, for government control of health care, for a health choice commissioner who will decide himself